# THE HATFIELD CONNECTION

A Publication of the Hatfield Township Board of Commissioners

SPRING/SUMMER 2022 Vol. 24 No.

### IN THIS ISSUE: HATFIELD CELEBRATES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Outstanding Women of Hatfield Lt. Jane Robertson: Serving Hatfield Hatfield Women Who Made History



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1950 School Road Hatfield, PA 19440-1992

Telephone: 215-855-0900 Fax: 215-855-0243 Website: www.hatfield.org

Township Manager: Aaron Bibro

#### Office Hours

M, T and Th: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wed: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fri: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

#### Township Municipal Schedules

Please visit hatfield.org for location details.

Board of Commissioners 7:30 p.m. |  $2^{nd} & 4^{th}$  Wednesdays of each month

Planning Commission 7:30 p.m. | 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month

**Zoning Hearing Board** 7:30 p.m. | 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month

#### Stay Connected

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Email: Sign up for the Hatfield Township email newsletters at hatfield.org



TV: Verizon Channel 31 Comcast Channel 965



- Remember to Vote
- $\cdot$  General Primary on 5/17



# Who should be featured next?

Email abibro@hatfield.org to nominate a Hatfield resident that is doing good in the community.

### Hatfield Board of Commissioners



From left to right: Gerald Andris (Ward V), Bob Rodgers (Ward II, Vice President), Deborah Zimmerman (Ward III), Greg Lees (Ward I), Tom Zipfel (Ward IV, President)

Hatfield residents elect five Commissioners to four-year terms of office. Each Commissioner represents a geographical "Ward" of the township. The Commissioners are part time volunteers who make decisions on behalf of the 17,000+ residents in Hatfield Township. The Board of Commissioners meets twice a month to discuss and adopt policies for Hatfield's local government services. These policy decisions include items such as land development applications, road improvements, public safety matters, capital improvement projects, and open space preservation. While each year may bring different projects and policies, the overarching goal of the Board of Commissioners is always to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

To find out which ward you live in and which commissioner represents you, please refer to the township map at www.hatfield.org/your\_government/board\_of\_commissioners.

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#### TOWNSHIP MAP

Scan the QR code for a digital version of the Hatfield Township Public Parks map.





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# Outstanding Women of Hatfield

In honor of Women's History Month, Hatfield Township recognized these Notable Women of Hatfield

#### Joan DiMaria

Joan DiMaria is a treasured volunteer on Hatfield's Shade Tree Commission, where she has served since the 1990s. Joan always had a passion for gardening and was a member of an Herb Society when she was approached to join the Shade Tree Commission. She learned a lot about trees and plants from the older members, many of whom were landscapers or civil engineers. The Commission serves as a citizen advisory Board to the Township and focuses on native trees and shrubs. A major function of the Commission is the planting of these trees, shrubs, and plants in many of the Township's parks and in stormwater basins. The group also picks out trees for the Township Nursery.

Joan was part of the Shade Tree Commission during the creation of the Arboretum on Princeton Place, and she spearheaded an annual plant exchange for residents. Joan enjoys sharing her knowledge with residents about plants and helping them choose the right ones for their homes. She also likes being involved with intergenerational programs such as Earth Day and RocktoberFest where she helps children make pinecone birdfeeders and promotes the Adopt A Plant program.



Joan volunteers with her husband Frank at the Hatfield History Museum. She also serves as President of Heckler's Plains Folklife Society, where she is involved with restoration, as well as community and educational programs. Joan and her husband have lived in Hatfield since 1977 and raised their two daughters here. She loves the good blend of small-town and suburban feel of Hatfield and all the community events offered, such as the Memorial Day service, Christmas Tree lighting, and RocktoberFest, to name a few.

#### Anu Sharma

Anu Sharma has the title of reigning queen of Pennsylvania as Mrs. India USA PA 2021 but is also accomplished in so many ways. After arriving in the United States from India, as an adult, she became the first woman engineer in her family and has a career as a successful data scientist in a large global pharma company working on life-saving drugs. She sees her work as not only a job, but as a responsibility to give back to society as the drugs she works on could save lives across the world. Anu is a STEM leader and an avid TED Talk speaker. She also models and is a brand promoter. However, Anu likes to say that her best title is "twin mom" to two beautiful four-year-old daughters.



Anu has a "never give up" attitude and considers herself a perfectionist. In addition to all her professional titles, she takes time for herself and likes to exercise, paint and do classical dance. Anu also volunteers as an animal rescuer. Once in India, she and her mother bought 100 caged parrots for the sole purpose of releasing them. After beating Covid, Anu collaborated with several non-profit charitable organizations to support families here and in India during the pandemic.

Since winning her title of Mrs. India USA PA, Anu has been on a mission of women empowerment and making a difference in the world. She sees pageants not so much as a platform for beauty but as a platform to combine beauty with brains serving a purpose. Anu believes our legacies are defined by our actions and how we leave a mark of positivity on the world.

Anu and her husband have lived in Hatfield since 2017 and really love the warmth of all the residents as well as all the recreational and social opportunities the Township offers. She especially enjoys the festivals, the parks, and the community pool.

#### **Anna Feingold**

Anna Feingold is one of the oldest residents of Hatfield, having celebrated her 101st birthday on January 21. She grew up in the Conshohocken area, the only daughter in a family of 9 sons. She also lived in Miami, Florida, for a short while, before moving to Hatfield in the mid-1950s. Anna and her husband Jake chose Hatfield as it wasn't too far from the Willow Grove Naval Air Base, where Jake worked as a mechanic. Together they raised their son, Bernard, in the Township and made many lifelong friends.

Anna didn't waste any time becoming involved in her new community. She was part of a group of people who helped found St. Maria Goretti's parish and Church. Prior to the church being built, Anna recalls parishioners meeting in a local pub or at the fire station. They were very happy to have a church in the community as it meant they didn't have to go to the next town for services. Anna also was involved in local politics, serving as a poll worker for many years.

Anna felt that Hatfield was a very friendly little town, and she had friends over often for meals and cards. In addition to cards, Anna liked to bowl, play in leagues, and she liked to golf. She also enjoyed walking to stay in shape and would often walk to Rosenberger's with a friend for coffee in the mornings. Anna credits her longevity to eating right, exercising, being friendly, and never arguing.



4



From left to right: (Standing) Bob Rodgers, Deborah Zimmerman, Joan DiMaria, Lt. Jane Robertson, Katie Lapps Wert, DMD, Judith Tamas, DVM, Ellen Allen, Anu Sharma, Greg Lees, Tom Zipfel. From left to right: (Seated) Betty Johnston, Heather Kohler, Dee Lord. Not in attendance: Anna Feingold, Corporal Brandi McCoy, Officer Kaylee Plisinski, and Commissioner Gerald Andris

#### Katie Lapps Wert, DMD

Dr. Katie Lapps Wert is a lifelong resident of Hatfield with the exception of time she served in the military. While in college, 9/11 happened and she was inspired to serve her country. But she knew she wanted to be a dentist, so she applied and received a Health Professional Scholarship to pursue her education and also serve in the Navy. While obtaining her dental degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, she was nominated by



faculty and inducted into the prestigious Omicron Kappa Upsilon honor society dental fraternity. She then served 5 years active duty as a general dentist; during this time, she was deployed with a Marine unit to Iraq. While deployed her mission was to keep the troops "dentally ready" for their mission. Dr. Wert felt she was making a difference during her 8 month deployment despite facing the challenges of being the only female in her unit. Once returning stateside, she served as the dental officer at Wil-

low Grove Naval Air Station until it closed in 2011. She then became a reservist and would serve for 4 more years. During her time in the Navy, Dr. Wert rose to the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

After the military, she continued her education, specializing in pediatric dentistry. She entered a 2 year residency at CHOP (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia), serving as Chief Resident. At CHOP, she designed and carried out a research project on breastfeeding and dental health, for which she is published in a peer-reviewed journal. After graduation, Dr. Lapps Wert accepted a position as a pediatric dentist with North Penn Pediatric Dental Associates, where she prefers to be called "Dr. Katie."

Outside of work, Dr. Katie has a passion for empowering women, especially when it comes to breastfeeding. She served on the Board of Directors of the Breastfeeding Resource Center in Abington for 4 years. This nonprofit reaches out to women, especially the under-served, to support breastfeeding. In addition, Katie has a passion for educating parents; she talks to local mom groups discussing breastfeeding and encouraging parents to set up good oral hygiene and healthy dental and nutrition habits early on in a child's life.

Dr. Katie and her husband Eric are parents of four children. They find Hatfield to be a great family town and enjoy the parks and the many neighborhoods. Despite her busy schedule, Dr. Katie takes time to exercise and enjoys reading a good book.

#### Judith Tamas, DVM

Judith Tamas, DVM, is a caring and well-respected veterinarian and owner of the Hatfield Veterinary Clinic. She has serviced the pets of Hatfield and beyond from her office on Cowpath Road for almost forty years. After graduating from veterinary school in Hungary in the 1970s, she wanted to be a research scientist or a pathologist. But, after arriving in the United States, Dr. Tamas had to go through the rigorous steps of multiple exams and clinical work to be a licensed veterinarian in the US. Part of this process was a one-year internship at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. This experience put her on a trajectory of a different career path. Working with patients and their owners, diagnosing and treating live animals, became her passion. As the sole proprietor of the Hatfield Veterinary Clinic, Dr. Tamas faced many challenges over the years. While she was singularly responsible for running her own clinic, she raised two small children without the benefit of an extended family. And this is how Dr. Tamas fell in love with Hatfield. It literally took a village; she needed help, and the many kind, accepting, helpful people she met then-have become lifelong friends and like family.

Dr. Tamas gives back to the community in many ways. Most notable is inspiring and mentoring high school and college students on their path to becoming veterinarians. In addition, she works with pet rescues (FurEver Yours and Stray Cat Blues) for very reduced fees to facilitate as many adoptions as possible. She also served as a Democratic Committee person many years ago.

For the last 12 years, Dr. Tamas has served on Hatfield Township's Industrial Development Authority Board. Recently the IDA has helped secure financing for the Hatfield Police Department, additional con-

struction at Elm Terrace Nursing Home, and funds for several youth organizations in the area.

Hatfield was very far from anything Dr. Tamas was used to when she moved here from Mt. Airy and Hungary, but she has come to love the town for its sense of community, its peace and tranquility, and all the nice people. While Dr. Tamas loves her job and has no plans to retire, she does like to take time



for herself by reading, participating in her book club, going to the beach or the theater, and hopes to resume traveling in the future.

continued on page 6-7

#### Corporal Brandi McCoy and Officer Kaylee Plisinski

Corporal Brandi McCoy and Officer Kaylee Plisinski are two of the three women who make up Hatfield Township's Police Department. Hatfield Township has been lucky enough to have had a female presence in their department for over 20 years. The current Lieutenant,



Corporal Brandi McCoy

Jane Robertson, has successfully risen through the ranks and, upon retirement, will be leaving behind a new legacy involving a new initiative program called the 30 x 30.

The 30 x 30 program is a national initiative to advance women in policing. Currently, women make up only 12% of sworn officers and 3% of police leadership. Hatfield Township recently joined the program

and became one of five police agencies in Pennsylvania to take the 30 x 30 pledge, which aims to take the number of women in policing to 30% by 2030. The program will allow Hatfield Township to create an environment where females can join together to advance the representation of women in law enforcement and encourage an environment where those same hired women can be promoted.

30 x 30 research finds that female officers use less force and less excessive force and are named in fewer lawsuits and complaints against departments. Women also make fewer discretionary arrests and are valued by the community because the community perception is that female officers are more honest and compassionate.

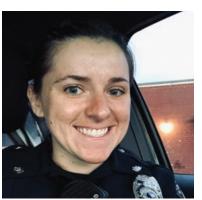
Hatfield Police Department is hopeful that while Lieutenant Robertson may be leaving soon, our latest two female officers will continue to light the path for women in law enforcement. Officer Kaylee Plisinski and Corporal Brandi McCoy will strive to create an environment where females want to make a lasting career in law enforcement and represent a great township.

Officer Plisinski graduated from Cabrini University with a degree in Criminology. She attended Temple Police Academy and was hired in 2019 by Hatfield. In addition to her regular duties, Office Plisinski has become a member of the bike unit and most recently was selected to be a field training officer.

Corporal McCoy graduated from Elizabethtown University with a degree in English and Communication. She also attended the Mont-

gomery County Police Academy and has been a police officer for over ten years. She joined Hatfield in 2017 and, since becoming part of the Department, has become a member of the community policing unit, part of the William Chapman Scholarship committee, and is a field training officer.

Both officers say that their favorite thing about the job is that there is something



Officer Kaylee Plisinski

different each day and that no single day is the same. They both also appreciate the support they receive from the community and feel like Hatfield is their "second family."

#### **Heather Kohler**

Heather Kohler grew up in Hatfield and after graduation from high school was conflicted as to what career path she wanted to pursue. Finally, about 7 years later, Heather decided on the military and enlisted in 2000 with the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. This is where she has remained for the last twenty-one years. Heather began her career by attending an Air Force technical school for armament systems apprentice or weapons loader, of A10 Thunderbolt aircraft. Heather's first deployment was in 2003 in support of Iraqi Freedom and she worked on the weapons system of the A10 during this deployment.

Heather believes the Guard and the Military gave her a purpose as well as an opportunity to put her organizational skills to use. She is highly skilled in fleet management and logistics involving moving people and vehicles around where needed quickly. While with the 111th Logistics Squadron (LRS) she used these skills to achieve a

7 level in this career field. She also deployed a second time as a security escort to Manas AB in Kyrgyzstan (2006) as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. In 2012 Heather ioined the 201st REDHORSE Squadron Detachment 1. This squadron is self-sufficient and capable of rapid response and independent operations in remote, high-threat environments worldwide. In 2014 Heather deployed a third time to Qatar and Kuwait. Heather and her team were responsible for moving and maintaining vehicles for the mission all across the area of responsibility (AOR).



Recently, Heather moved to the OIG office (Office of Inspector General) and is the Inspection Coordinator for the 111th Attack Wing. She manages all self-assessment programs and makes sure that the squadrons are in compliance and that they self-identify any non-compliance. Their motto is "Inspect to Improve." Heather now holds the rank of Master Sergeant E7 and serves out of Biddle Air National Guard Base, in Horsham. She's also completed her college education at Delaware Valley University with a degree in Business Administration and hopes the future will bring a project management position.

Women only make up 20% of the Air National Guard officers. As a result, Heather has been overlooked for some positions, but she overcame adversity by proving how capable she is through her work. Despite the challenges of working in a male-dominated field, coming out in the military as a lesbian was even harder for Heather. She feels that many good people were lost because of military rules and culture. However, things in this regard are improving and Heather is accepted for who she is and the work she does. She is part of a diversity and inclusion group at the Base.

Heather has fond memories of Hatfield growing up, especially going to the community pool in the summers. When she found out that her Hometown Hero Banner was outside of the pool, she thought that was quite appropriate. Heather and her wife, Stacie are raising their 3 children together and enjoy vegetable gardening and making crafts out of pallets. Heather is also a member of the American Legion and the VFW. She hopes to give back to the community through these organizations as well as to participate in a local Habitat for Humanity project.

#### **Ellen Allen**

Ellen Allen taught many Hatfield children for 17 years before retiring in 2015. Before becoming a teacher, Ellen volunteered for many years in her children's school at Oak Park, including as Home & School president and as a member of the redistricting committee in the 1990s when 3

new elementary schools were opening. Following redistricting, Ellen's younger children attended Walton Farm Elementary School, and she helped start the Home & School Association there. Spending so much time involved in the schools, Ellen found her calling and returned to school at Montgomery County Community College and Gwynedd Mercy University, earning a degree in Elementary and Special Education.

After graduation, Ellen obtained a position in Special Ed at Walton Farm. Soon after, she moved into regular Ed and taught 3rd and 4th grade. While teaching, Ellen earned her master's degree in Technology from DeSales University. While the United States was involved in war in the Middle East, Ellen got her students involved in helping the troops through letter-writing, collecting items for care packages, and making blankets for the soldiers. During this time, Ellen also volunteered with the USO (United Services Organization) at Fort Dix and McGuire Air Force Bases.

Ellen was very involved in her community in other ways as well. When her children were in high school, she served on the Post Prom Party committee, the Drug and Alcohol Task Force, and the North Penn School District's Coordinating Council president.



Ellen and her husband Bill moved to Hatfield in 1984 to be closer to the family business and stayed, raising their 4 children. Ellen finds Hatfield very welcoming and friendly, with a major sense of community. She's made many lifelong friends among her neighbors and her volunteer community.

#### Dee Lord

Dee Lord and her husband Corey grew up loving sports and competed in many themselves. After working at the local YMCA, they decided to open their own sports academy, focusing on the entire athlete by building character and strength through sports. They wanted to develop well-rounded



individuals who not only excelled in sports but gave back to the community. So, they established 5 pillars of behavior to have their athletes strive for: commitment, determination, motivation, strength, and teamwork.

The CAL Sports Academy offers programs for preschoolers to adults and summer camps in basketball, soccer, volleyball, track, and speed and agility. CAL's travel team athletes give back to the community in various ways, such as cleaning up around the local pools and parks in Hatfield and Souderton, volunteering at Manna on Main Street, collecting canned goods for the Jewish Relief Fund, Toys for Tots, and writing letters to the troops. As the Senior Executive Assistant, Dee is instrumental in organizing all these charity events as well as making sure everything runs smoothly in the day-to-day operations of the Academy.

Dee was born in Panama and came to the United States at the age of four. Before working in the sports field, Dee worked in a hospital under the radiology and urology departments. In 1999 Dee and Corey moved from New York to Hatfield because of a job relocation. They chose Hatfield for its suburban and small, close-knit community feel. They raised their three children in Hatfield, and now, they all work within CAL Academy. It's truly a family organization, not just for the Lord family, but is a family to all the athletes who have passed

through and who live up to the five pillars instilled in them. Dee enjoys getting to know the young athletes who pass through their doors and helping to mold them into good athletes and good citizens.

#### **Betty Johnston**

Betty Johnston returned to live in the Hatfield home she grew up in over 20 years ago, having never really left as she began helping with the family business in 1968 when her father passed away. In 1962 Betty's family opened Twin Woods Golf Course, named for the two wooded areas on the property, and it has been thriving ever since.

Just a year old, when her father bought the property in 1935, Betty grew up in Hatfield, graduating from the Hatfield Consolidated High School. After earning a degree in business from Bloomsburg College, she had a career teaching business at North Penn High School, Parkland High School in Allentown, and Lehigh Community College. Betty and her husband, Jim, lived in Allentown for 50 years before returning to Hatfield. She remembers Hatfield as a great place to grow up. Fishing from the old bridge near her home, going on sleigh rides on the Frick's Church property, swimming in the pond during the summer, and ice skating there in the winter.

While Betty's brother Bill did all the outside work for the golf course, she and her husband handled the books. Betty took up the task after Jim passed away. In the 1970's Betty & Jim also had a thriving business called the Reference Rack, where they sold mail-order books on antiques and collectibles for 25 years.



Working at Twin Woods, Betty enjoys socializing with the customers and seeing older customers carry on the tradition by bringing their grandkids to learn the game. She has excellent staff to help run the business and says it "takes a village" to keep operations running smoothly. Her own son and daughter, as well as other family members, have all worked at Twin Woods at some point in their lives.

Twin Woods is a true community treasure. Offering league golfing for women, youth, seniors, and male and female teams. There are also summer programs for children ages 11-15. They also have a pro shop, and lessons are available from a PGA professional.

Betty says working at Twin Woods gives her a purpose to get up each day. She believes we should enjoy every day, do what we can, and don't worry. She currently has no plans to retire.

# 2022 Events

# april 23

#### Earth Day Celebration and Clean Up

In recognition of Earth Day, sign up to volunteer at one of our cleanup locations throughout the township. Volunteers are provided lunch after! Shredding and other hazardous wastes drop-off locations are available for residents. Check the website for specifics of what items are collected at each location: www.hatfield.org





#### **Trail Clean-Up**

We are looking for residents to come out and volunteer twice a year to help clean up parks and trails throughout the township. Sign-up information will be available closer to the dates of the event.



CALLING ALL RUNNERS! Details, information, and registration is available at: www.runtheday.com.

#### Spring Scavenger Hunt 5K

Kick off the Hatfield 5k Race Series with this NEW fun-filled race! Run the 3.1 miles straight through or stop along the way as you participate in a spring scavenger hunt. This is a great race to run with a group of friends, family members, or to challenge yourself!



AUGUST

APRI

#### Dash & Splash 5K

Looking for something fun to break up your summer work week? Join us for our Dash and Splash 5k! Run off some steam after the work day and then jump in and have some fun with a pool party to follow!





#### Fall Festival 5K

Help us bring our 5k race series to a close with our Fall Festival 5k! This race finishes at School Road Park for our Rocktoberfest Fall Festival event. As you cross the finish line enjoy live music, cheering crowds, and sights, smells, and sounds of food trucks, vendors, kid's activities and more!



#### www.hatfield.org





#### Movie in the Park

Help us close out our summer season with a family film on the big screen at School Road Park. Pack chairs, blankets, and your favorite movie snacks for an evening outdoors.



### sept 10

#### Dog-A-Poolooza

Typically held the weekend after Labor Day, the Hatfield Aquatic Center opens its facility for Dog-A-Poolooza, an event allowing dogs and their owners to enjoy some quality time in an otherwise unconventional environment.



# 

#### Rocktoberfest

Rocktoberfest is Hatfield's community festival filled with games, children's activities, vendors, food, live music, and more! Spend the day enjoying the autumn weather as you shop for unique gifts,enjoy tasty cuisine, and decorate pumpkins.



When I first started, I came in to do a job. I wanted to prove myself as an officer and not a female officer."

# Lt. Jane Robertson reflects **on serving** the Hatfield Community

"So many little things have led to good gradual change."

Lieutenant Jane Robertson started her professional career as a jour-Inalist and holds both an undergraduate and a graduate degree in journalism. Lucky for us, early in her career, she took an assignment covering the police beat. Traveling across the county covering stories and meeting officers, Jane realized that she wanted to become an officer herself. But the journalism background came in handy with interrogations, writing reports, and the general skills needed to communicate with people.

After graduating from the Police Academy, her 26 years as an officer began when Hatfield Police Department hired her. After eight years on the force, she was appointed as an OIC (Officer in Charge). A few years later, she tested and became a Sergeant. Then in 2013, she was promoted to her current position as Lieutenant. When asked about her proudest accomplishment, Jane reflected with a smile, saying that "so many little things have led to good gradual change." But, the partnership with Laurel House, the county domestic abuse agency, sticks out.

Years ago, Jane, along with local ranking officers and social service groups, saw a gap; once the police removed an abuser, domestic abuse victims' had needs. As she explained, unfortunately, when officers go to domestic calls, many times they are so busy with the perpetrator and the arrest situation that they don't have time to help the victim and their family. Once the environment is safe, victims need to know everything will be okay, what will happen next, and what resources are available. So, the group informally created the Domestic Abuse Response Team. This small team was able to step in (at all hours of the day/night) and provide the next level of support for victims. That service was such an incredible benefit to law enforcement and the community that eventually Laurel House took on that role for the Hatfield Police Department and surrounding area. For Jane, Laurel House has become a tool that has allowed her to be more effective on the street. So she's incredibly proud to have been part of the initial group that brought the need to light. "It was definitely a group effort, but seeing how it's grown into a resource for the entire county, it's been great to be part of it from the beginning."

Jane came to Hatfield when very few women were in policing around the area. She quickly showed everyone what she was made of and she has built a great career for herself. Jane is certainly a wonderful example for the next generation of female leaders in policing. In the end, Jane and other women in the field really just want to be known as good cops. The groundwork laid by Jane will impact policing in this area for many years to come. I am very proud of Jane and all of her accomplishments."

- William J. Tierney, Chief of Police

For the first 20 years of her career, Jane was the only woman on the Hatfield Township police force. Today, 12% of law enforcement officers in the United States are women, with about 3% in command positions. Even as a small police department, Hatfield is close to the national average; three of the 29 officers are women.

Being a woman in a male-dominated profession has some advantages and disadvantages, but Jane didn't focus on that. "When I first started, I came in to do a job. I wanted to prove myself as an officer and not a female officer." But she admitted that there were people who believed that women didn't belong in the ranks at the time.

Of course, missing out on the locker room banter was a slight disadvantage, but Robertson learned other ways to build the same type of connection with fellow officers. Jane emphasized that every person brings their own strengths to the job, including women.

And she reminds us that police officers are citizens serving other citizens. "The only difference is how officers have to approach certain situations. We are the only profession that can take away civil liberties by making an arrest or dictating how things are going to go in that moment. Many times, women are very good at deescalating situations - one of the strengths that women bring to the profession."

Lt. Robertson recognizes that it's nice having diversity in a police department and very necessary. "At the end of the day, we all have issues to deal with at home, and being able to have empathy and compassion for others is very important in this line of work. I hope people understand we are part of the community and want to come alongside and help solve problems." Diversity gives everyone the opportunity to develop empathy and compassion for our diverse community.

Being a police officer has had a lot of negative press lately, but "one of the things I believe is that if you want to change something, you need to do something about it from within. It's easy to pass judgment. If you want to change it, you need to be part of the process." She stressed that it's important not to judge departments when you don't know the inside story of what happened on a call. "It is a wonderful profession. It's an opportunity to do good for your community, be a voice of reason or a listening ear."

She tells young people "if you have an interest in police work, you have to be ready to see things you thought you'd never see or thought were unimaginable. So, be patient, and know that what you are doing is trying to improve the quality of life for your community. It's a great profession."

With an increasing number of women entering the field, we ask if she would recommend police work to a young woman today. Jane is thrilled with the growing numbers and said, "I would if they were really interested in it. You need to know what you are getting into – it's not what you see on TV. There are going to be some long nights where you get exhausted with some calls, and other calls (when you've worked through them and can look back) are absolutely personally rewarding. There is a lot of paperwork, and that's something that people don't expect. Having writing and interviewing skills are very important. It can be monotonous at times with regard to procedural requirements. It's not all car chases; in fact, I think I've only been in two my whole career. But, overall, it's rewarding when you know you've done right serving the people of the community."

One of Jane's passions is animals. If she couldn't be a police officer, she would be an attorney for the Animal Legal Defense Fund. Jane Goodall is a hero to Lt. Robertson, and when she had the opportunity to meet her once, she was star-struck. Another person that Jane admires is Gene Baur - founder of Farm Sanctuary.

Over the years, Jane has used her platform to help animals whenever she could. There were times when that just meant getting a dog or cat to a local veterinarian due to an injury. Other times it meant ex-

plaining to other officers the benefits of getting an animal to the Aark Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center. She also takes every opportunity on an animal call to educate residents about the resources like Aark and the Wildlife Clinic at the Schuylkill Center. She believes the most important thing you can teach the younger generation, beginning in elementary school, is to have compassion and empathy for all animals. "We all have to share the



world, and we all have the basic instinct to survive. If you have compassion and empathy for all creatures, I believe you'll bring that back into the community, and we'd have a lot fewer issues."

Next up for Jane is retirement, and she's got big plans. She and her husband have purchased some land out of state, where they intend on starting a farm animal rescue.

They hope to give the animals a second chance and create advocacy for the better treatment of animals. "I'm hoping to help from within."

### Hatfield Aquatic Center 2022 Season

Hatfield Township's state-of-the-art aquatic center features a water castle, a variety of water slides for different swimming levels, a lazy river, a hydrotherapy pool, and more!

From pavilions and picnic tables to an activity center and concession stand, there is something for the whole family!



Help us jump and slide back to normal at the Hatfield Aquatic Center. To become a member and for more information, please visit www.hatfield.org.

# Do you like to SWIM...Make Friends...Have Fun??? Come join The Hatfield Sharks Summer Swim Team!!!







Email: hatfieldsharks@gmail.com Website: www.hatfieldswim.org Location: Hatfield Aquatic Center

### Spring: Time to Play Ball With Hatfield-Towamencin Baseball!

**Connie Mack & American Legion Baseball** 

Summer Connie Mack — Ages 13-16 (May-July)

Summer Junior Legion — Ages 14-16 (May-July)

Summer Senior Legion - Ages 16-19 (May-July)

Senior Connie Mack — Ages 17-40 (May-July)

Early Spring Connie Mack — Ages 13-16 (April-May)

With a commitment to the health and safety of our players, families, and volunteers, we look forward to getting back on the fields with a competitive and fun vertically integrated baseball program spanning Quickball through American Legion.

#### 2022 CALENDAR BY DIVISION\*

#### Spring Intramural Season (March - June)

Quickball — Ages 4-6 (Coach Pitch w/Quickball) A: Coach Pitch — Ages 6-7 AA: Player Pitch — Ages 8-9 (46/60 Field) Minors — Ages 9-10 (46/60 Field) Majors — Ages 11-12 (50/70 Field)

#### You Can Still Get in the Game!

To date, we have several hundred players already registered, but registration is still open for select age groups at www.tyasports.org. If you run into any issues, please email us today at HTbaseball@hotmail.com, and we will do our best to find a spot for your son.

#### Stay Connected

Email: HTbaseball@hotmail.com



@Hatfield-Towamencin Baseball

Web: www.tyasports.org





@TowamencinCMB and @HatfieldALB

\*We are planning for a "typical" season spanning these dates, subject to any changes in COVID restrictions.







## 2022 Parks and Recreation Programs

Get I	Fit Series			
Get Fit DDIP	Join Dr. Drill for this monthly exercise session. The Dr. Drill Instructor Program (DDIP) classes will take place at School Road Park. Come out of hibernation. Reclaim your motivation. Exercise in the open air and reconnect with good people!			
Get Fit Yoga	Join Instructor Beth of Younger Thru Yoga + for a weekly yoga class. Unwind after a hard work week with this class. Sessions are offered throughout the year. (In person)			
Get Fit Remix	Join Instructor Karen for a weekly class. A different style of workout will be offered each week of this program. Tabata, Pilates, Kickboxing and much more. Sessions are offered throughout the year. (In person)			
Get Fit Zumba	Join Instructor Lisa for a weekly Zumba class. Dance to great music with great people and burn a ton of calories without even realizing it. Sessions are offered throughout the year. (In person)			
Special Offerings – International Day of Yoga – 6/21/22				

#### Pickleball



Hatfield Township partners with XL Sports to bring you indoor pickleball (October – May). There are multiple sessions offered at different costs depending on the session length. Through the summer months, pickleball is played at the Hatfield Community Park (June–September).

#### **Teddy Bear Picnic**



Bring your preschooler out for a fun-filled picnic! Enjoy lunch, crafts, music, and more! Remember to bring your favorite stuffed animal so they don't miss out on all the fun!

#### **Storybook Series**



This home program features a book and crafts. Register and receive all the materials. Send in photos of your family story time and finished craft products! *\*offered monthly* 

#### **Seminar Series**



Hatfield Township offers a variety of educational seminars. Join us and receive information and training from seminars such as "Ready, Set, Medicare," or American Red Cross Babysitting courses. Details for different seminars provided on the Hatfield Township website.

# Pre-registration is required for all Hatfield Township Programs. Get more information and register at www.hatfield.org





# Spring Break NEW: School's Out Camp! – Video Game Art Workshop April 13, 14, 18 | 9am-4pm | Hatfield Township Administration Building | Ages 6-12 | Fee \$150/child

Looking for something for your kids to do during Spring Break? Join Hatfield Township and Young Rembrandts for a workshop that mimics the amazing imagery of their favorite apps and video games.

#### Hatfield Summer Camp

Hatfield Township offers a variety of summer camp options. Most camps are held outdoors at one of our featured township parks. Children will participate in a variety of sports, games, activities, and crafts throughout the day. Special guests and presentations are featured throughout the summer. New camp formats, as well as new safety guidelines and procedures have been added to adapt to the changing circumstances of COVID-19. Please be sure to visit our website for the most up to date information and registration.

Rec Camp						
Session 1	Session 1			Ages 6-12:		
	Dates	3 Day Fee (Res/Non-Res)	5 Day Fee (Res/Non-Res)	Camp Site: School Road Park Check-In Time: 9:00-9:30 a.m.		
Week 1	June 27 <sup>th</sup> - July 1 <sup>st</sup>	\$125/\$135	\$185/\$200	Check-Out Time: 3:30-4:00 p.m.		
Week 2	July 6 <sup>th</sup> - July 8 <sup>th</sup> (No Camp July 4 <sup>th</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup> )	\$125/\$135	\$125/\$135	Before and After Camp		
Week 3	July 11 <sup>th</sup> - July 15 <sup>th</sup>	\$125/\$135	\$185/\$200	This program is only available for participants for the weeks in which		
Session 2		they are registered for camp. The				
Week 1	July 25 <sup>th</sup> - July 29 <sup>h</sup>	\$125/\$135	\$185/\$200	Before Camp program runs the hour prior to camp. The After Camp program runs the hour after camp. Registration is available in a variety of formats.		
Week 2	August 1 <sup>st</sup> - August 5 <sup>th</sup>	\$125/\$135	\$185/\$200			
Week 3	August 8 <sup>th</sup> - August 12 <sup>th</sup>	\$125/\$135	\$185/\$200			

#### Hatfield Township Specialty Camps

These camps are operated by outside organizations partnering with Hatfield Township to offer fun and exciting learning programs to residents!

#### **Specialty Camps**

#### Eureka! Young Inventors Camp

July 18-22 | 9am-4pm | Hatfield Township Administration Building | Ages 6-12 | Fee \$275/child

Launch with Legends & Fly to the Future in our Inventor's Camp! Discover the work of Da Vinci, Edison, Tesla, Verne, Asimov, and more! Use what you learn to invent, build catapults, launch projectiles off a large trebuchet, create hot air balloons, and several types of spacecrafts. Camp culminates by building sci-fi inspired light sabers that you take home, along with your dreams of the future!

#### International Soccer Camp

July 18-22 | Aug. 15-19 | 9am-4pm | School Road Park | Ages 6-12 | Fee (Res/Non-Res) \$250/\$265 per week

The International Camp curriculum will reflect the truly global nature of the sport today and will provide young players with a wide variety of coaching styles, practices, and influences that will help them develop a well-rounded skill set.

#### Jr. Physicians Academy – Super Smoky Slimy Science Camp

Aug 15-19 | 9am-4pm | Hatfield Township Administration Building | Ages 6-12 | Fee \$275/child

Part 1: Explore all of the cells, organs, muscles, and bones that make up YOU! Put yourself together from the inside out, while learning about all the systems that make your body tick! Get microscopic while making a model cell, create a stethoscope to hear your heartbeat, and inflate model lungs that work just like yours! Get a little sticky while making "Mad Mucus" and a mashed potato brain! Part 2: Dive into a variety of scientific fields as you mix and stretch silly putty and slime, copperplate nickels, and investigate the mysteries of optical illusions. Become captivated by lasers, dry ice, watch hair-raising Van de Graaff experiments, help solve a mystery, and so much more! Tinker with circuits, catapults, and experience what happens when you mix science and fun!

Register at: www.hatfieldrec.com

# Hatfield Women Who Made History!

by Larry Stevens, President of the Hatfield Museum & History Society

Throughout much of Hatfield's earlier history, women were kept busy in their roles as mother and housewife. Participation in civic affairs, those things that would get ones name recorded for posterity, was left to the men. But here are a few Hatfield women who still managed to make history.

#### Fannie Johnson-Hatfield's Florence Nightingale

One young Hatfield woman, Fannie Johnson, earned her place in history by her selfless service during the Revolutionary War. After the American Continental Army was defeated by the British in the battle of Germantown on October 4, 1777, the sick and wounded were brought north, taking refuge in many of the farmhouses of the area, including in Hatfield Township. John Johnson, who owned a spacious home off of Elroy Road, opened his house to several wagon loads of wounded soldiers. Johnson, and his daughter, Fannie, assisted in attending to the wounded, some who had contracted typhus fever. It was soon feared that the British were headed their way, so all of the sick that could be moved fled to Berks County. Johnson and Fannie stayed behind, however, to care for those who were too sick to be moved. They were both soon stricken with the fever, and in just a few days, John Johnson died. Fannie suffered terribly from the illness for a long time, since there were no doctors in the area to help her. Her whole body became so stiff that no joint would bend. Her friends eventually constructed a crude stretcher and carried her all the way to doctors in Berks County, to receive medical attention. She suffered long but did recover, against all expectations, dying many years later of old age at her home near Doylestown.

#### The Swartley Triplets

There are three women who have a place in Hatfield history simply



for being born-the Swartley identical triplets! Evaline, Madeline, and Irene, were born to Enos and Irene Swartley on April 19, 1902. At that time, natural multiple births were quite uncommon, triplets even more so, and identical triplets were considered a rarity. That they all survived birth was in itself somewhat miraculous since the chances of miscarriage increased with each additional child. And while it was not unusual for at least one triplet to be born with health issues, all three girls were born healthy. At that time, the life expectancy of triplets was thought to be quite short, but the Swartley triplets thrived. They grew into adulthood and all got married, living full lives. Evaline Swartley Wright died in 1960; Irene Swartley Landes died in 1983; and Madeline Swartley Miller died in 1990.

#### Edna "Busy B" Benner

One woman left her mark on Hatfield history by introducing the community to a hard candy that became a Hatfield tradition for over 60 years! It was back in 1959 that Edna Benner received a Pennsylvania Dutch recipe for hard candy, known as Slapjack, from a woman at church. Many folks will remember getting their first taste of the candy, flavored with wintergreen, anise (licorice), or root beer, from Mrs.

Benner's small roadside stand, Busy B's Market, on Forty Foot Road near Koffel Road. When Mrs. Benner died in 1996, her daughter, Mary Jane Chavez, with the help of several other relatives, kept the tradition alive by continuing production of the hard chewy candy that has been known to pull fillings out of people's teeth. The candy is only made from the end of October to the end of March, because it is too sticky to make any other time of year. If you haven't yet enjoyed



this traditional Hatfield candy, pick some up the next time you see it at The Trolley Stop Deli, and you will thank Edna Benner!

To learn more about Hatfield's fascinating history, schedule a visit to the Hatfield History Museum at www.hatfieldhistory.org, or call (215) 362-0428.

# Meet Your New Tax Collector

Daniel (Dan) Reavy was sworn in on January 3, 2022, as Hatfield township's new tax collector. When asked about why he wanted to run for tax collector, Dan had this to say, "I've given my adult life to giving back to my community in a number of different capacities. When the opportunity presented itself, I embraced that. I felt I have the temperament, tolerance, and patience to handle the task. I have a lot of customer service experience, and I know how to treat people."

As a tax collector, Dan is the conduit between the township, county, school district, and the residents and businesses of Hatfield Township. He's responsible for collecting taxes for close to 20,000 residents and approximately 5700 parcels of Hatfield township. He's proud of our local government for not raising taxes in the Township in the last eight years! So when you got your local tax bill, you didn't see an increase once again.

Dan (and his office manager, Carla McGann) are available to answer questions by phone, email, and in the office, which is now open to the public every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, from 9 am to 12 pm; and by appointment. One of his goals is to respond to calls and emails in a timely manner.

Enjoying his new role, Dan says it's in his DNA to solve problems, and that's what he's doing here. When Dan is not serving the community, you might find him on the golf course. He also loves our local Hatfield diners. Dan describes the diner atmosphere as a feeling of community. So during the pandemic, he decided to support the local diners as much as possible.

Dan stated, "I'm delighted to be the tax collector. I look forward to meeting everyone, whether in the office, at a diner, or at the supermarket."

#### dreavy@hatfield.org

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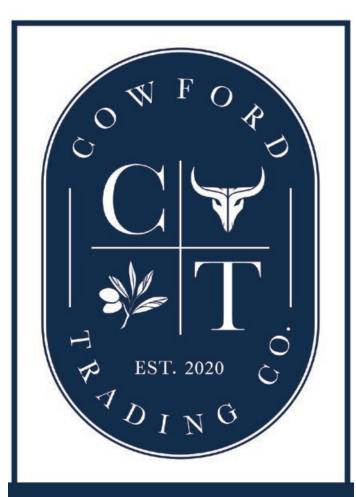
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